

## Section 1 Incident Variables

Site ID: SiteID	1-3
Incident ID: IncID	1-4
Case status: CaseStat	1-5
 <b>INCIDENT COUNTERS</b>	 1-6
 <b>SUPERVISOR CHECK</b>	 1-8
 Number of nonfatally shot persons in incident: NumInjure	 1-9
Narrative of the incident: IncNarr	1-10
Scene investigation by law enforcement: ScenLaw	1-12
Scene investigation by the CME: ScenME	1-12
Witness(es) to fatal incident: Witness	1-13
If yes, child witness: ChldWit	1-13
CFR additional information: CFRT	1-14



**Site ID: SiteID**  
**Incident ID: IncID**

**Name    Definition**

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SiteID    Identifier for the state reporting site

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IncID    Identifier used to identify the incident

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**Uses**

Used together, the Site ID and the Incident ID uniquely identify each incident in the database. The Site and Incident ID are used to link data from all of the tables in the relational database. The site number can be used to sort data by site for analysis.

**Discussion**

The Site ID number is the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) code assigned to the state. The Incident ID is automatically assigned by the software and increases by one for each incident. There are no provisions for missing or unknown information for these two data elements.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
SiteID	Site ID:	Incident	Number	2	ER	SYS
IncID	Incident ID:	Incident	Text	9	ER	SYS

**Response Options:**

SiteID

- 1 Alabama
- 2 Alaska
- 4 Arizona
- 5 Arkansas
- 6 California
- 8 Colorado
- 9 Connecticut
- 10 Delaware
- 11 District of Columbia
- 12 Florida
- 13 Georgia
- 15 Hawaii
- 16 Idaho
- 17 Illinois
- 18 Indiana
- 19 Iowa
- 20 Kansas
- 21 Kentucky

## Incident

- 22 Louisiana
- 23 Maine
- 24 Maryland
- 25 Massachusetts
- 26 Michigan
- 27 Minnesota
- 28 Mississippi
- 29 Missouri
- 30 Montana
- 31 Nebraska
- 32 Nevada
- 33 New Hampshire
- 34 New Jersey
- 35 New Mexico
- 36 New York
- 37 North Carolina
- 38 North Dakota
- 39 Ohio
- 40 Oklahoma
- 41 Oregon
- 42 Pennsylvania
- 43 Puerto Rico
- 44 Rhode Island
- 45 South Carolina
- 46 South Dakota
- 47 Tennessee
- 48 Texas
- 49 Utah
- 50 Vermont
- 51 Virginia
- 53 Washington
- 54 West Virginia
- 55 Wisconsin
- 56 Wyoming

IncID

None

## Data Standards or Guidelines

FIPS state codes: Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS), National Institute of Standards and Technologies

**Case status: CaseStat**

Name	Definition
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CaseStat	Status of case
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**Uses**

This field will help the abstractor, supervisor, and CDC identify whether a given case is complete. For some purposes, it may be sufficient to use any cases for which at least the early required/(mandatory) variables are completed. For other purposes, the late required variables should be complete. States may also prefer to keep track of whether the optional fields have also been completed.

**Discussion**

When a new case is started, it will be given a case status of 1 (open) by default. This value can be changed as different stages of data entry are completed to mark progress. This variable is included in a standard quality control report that can be generated by NVDRS software to determine how many cases are in each status category. States or CDC may prefer to restrict the data to incidents of a particular case status before performing analyses. The case status variable will have no bearing on whether individual incidents are uploaded to CDC during routine uploads; all incidents will be uploaded.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
CaseStat	Case status:	Incident	Number	1	LR	SYS

**Response Options:**

CaseStat

- 1 Open
- 2 Early required completed
- 3 Late required completed
- 4 Optional and required completed

## INCIDENT COUNTERS

**Number of source documents in incident: NumSrDocs**

**Number of persons in incident: NumPersons**

**Number of weapons in incident: NumWeapons**

**Number of victim-suspect relationship records in incident: NumVSRels**

**Number of person-weapon relationship records in incident: NumPWRel**

Name	Definition
NumSrDocs	Number of source documents
NumPersons	Number of persons in incident
NumWeapons	Number of weapons in incident
NumVSRels	Number of victim-suspect relationship records in incident
NumPWRel	Number of person-weapon relationship records in incident

### Uses

These variables define the number of key components in the incident.

### Discussion

There must be a minimum of one document, one person, and one weapon in each incident. The number of source documents is the total number of death certificates, CME reports, police reports, etc. that provided information for the incident. People in the incident are only those who are fatally injured victims, or suspects in their deaths. Identifying the victims in the incident is not difficult once you have determined how to define an incident (see Definitions document). Identifying how many suspects to include may be more difficult. There are no suspects for isolated suicides and self-inflicted unintentional firearm deaths. For homicides, suspects include people who are listed by the police or the CME as suspects. For unintentional firearm deaths that are not self-inflicted, include the person who fired the weapon as a suspect and anyone else listed by the police as a suspect. A person does not have to be arrested or identified to be listed as a suspect. As long as the number of persons involved in the death is known (e.g., police report that the victim was stabbed by two males), each should be listed as a suspect, even if nothing further is known about them.

Weapons can range from instruments everyone would call a weapon, such as a gun or bayonet, to actions such as setting fires, pushing someone over a cliff, or shaking (as in shaken baby syndrome). Additional descriptive data elements exist only for firearms and poisons. The weapon type categories other than firearms and poisons are as follows: nonpowder guns (e.g., BB guns), sharp instruments, blunt instruments, hanging/suffocation, personal weapons (e.g., fist or feet), fall, explosive, drowning, fire, shaking, motor vehicle, biological weapon, and intentional neglect. Because details are collected only about firearms and poisons, enter each firearm or poison involved in the incident as a

separate weapon. For all other weapon types involved in a violent death, list the weapon only once per incident. For example, if multiple sharp objects or knives are used to kill one or more persons in an incident, enter only one weapon to represent all these sharp objects. If multiple knives and blunt objects are used, one “sharp instrument” and one “blunt instrument” weapon record should be entered. Guns on the scene known not used to shoot the victim, (e.g., a gun on the person of the victim), are not counted as weapons in the incident. Similarly, poisons or drugs on the scene that were not ingested in a drug overdose are not counted.

The numbers of Victim Suspect Relationships and Person Weapon Relationships are automatically calculated by the software.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
NumSrDocs	Number of source documants in incident:	Incident	Number	4	ER	SYS
NumPersons	Number of persons in incident:	Incident	Number	4	LR	SYS
NumWeapons	Number of weapons in incident:	Incident	Number	4	LR	SYS
NumVSRels	Number of victim-suspect relationship records in incident:	Incident	Number	4	LR	SYS
NumPWRels	Number of person-weapon relationship records in incident:	Incident	Number	4	LR	SYS

### Response Options

NumSrDocs

NumPersons

NumWeapons

NumVSRels

NumPWRels

## SUPERVISOR CHECK

**Date supervisor checked incident: DtSuper**

**Date supervisor rechecked incident: DtReSuper**

**Supervisor note field: SuperTxt**

Name	Definition
DtSuper	Date supervisor checked incident
DtReSuper	Date supervisor rechecked incident
SuperTxt	Supervisor note field

### Uses

Supervisors can use these fields to track whether they have checked the incident. Problems or questions noted in the supervisor's review can be placed in the supervisor note field.

### Discussion

These fields are optional.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
DtSuper	Date supervisor checked incident:	Incident	Text	10	O	SYS
DtReSuper	Date supervisor rechecked incident:	Incident	Text	10	O	SYS
SuperTxt	Supervisor note field:	Incident	Text	1000	O	SYS

### Response Options:

DtSuper	None
DtReSuper	None
SuperTxt	None



**Number of nonfatally shot persons in incident: NumInjure**

Name	Definition
NumInjure	Number of nonfatal gunshot wound victims associated with the report

**Uses**

Can be used to assess the extent of multiple-victim incidents and the association of nonfatal injuries with fatal incidents. Appears in PR and CME panels only.

**Discussion**

Record the total number of victims who sustained a projectile wound from a firearm during the course of the incident and survived. Victims of pistol whipping should not be counted here. This variable appears in PR and CME sections of Incident screen.

Name	Label	Table	Type	length	Field Priority	Primacy
NumInjure	Number of nonfatally shot persons in incident:	Incident	Number	4	LR/LR	CME/PR

**Response Options:**

NumInjure

**Data Standards or Guidelines**

NVISS

**Narrative of the incident: IncNarr**

Name	Definition
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IncNarr	Narrative of the incident
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**Uses**

There are two purposes for collecting a narrative account of the incident. The first is to briefly summarize what happened, and why, and include important information that is not otherwise captured in the coded variables. The second is to facilitate data quality control checks on the coding of key variables—particularly type of death, person type, circumstance, and victim-suspect relationship.

**Discussion**

Incident narratives are written based on a single data source. Consequently, there is an incident narrative that summarizes the police findings, a narrative that describes the CME's findings, and one that records additional information from the Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT). Please do not include personally identifying information in narratives such as names of people, towns, streets, police departments, and hospitals. Also avoid using specific dates. Describe, in a few sentences, who was injured by whom, the relationship between victim and suspect if other than self-inflicted, where the incident occurred, and the precipitating circumstances according to the data source. Each circumstance variable that is positively endorsed on the circumstance screen should be mentioned in the narrative. Avoid using abbreviations, with the exception of V for Victim, S for Suspect, and V/S for persons who are both victims and suspects. An example of a homicide narrative is: "V was a passenger in a taxi cab who was shot by the cab driver, S, after an altercation over the amount of the cab fare. The two were not previously acquainted. The V had been drinking at a bar." An example of a suicide narrative is: "Victim was found in his parked car in the driveway of his home with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. No suicide note was found. His wife reports he was despondent over the loss of his job four months ago and had talked about suicide but never previously attempted. CME report does not document any mental health or substance abuse history." Try to keep the narratives relatively short. Avoid using incomplete sentences, as they are hard to understand. There is no need to document timing, who found the body, body position, wound information, treatment information, etc. The following is a poor example of an incident narrative: "Victim approached by 2 AMs IFO Store 24 on Fresno Blvd. at approximately 11:50 p.m. First AM dropped to his knees, took aim, and shot V in left leg. V raises hand to block shot. Second S shoots V in hand and chest. V crawls to pay phone. EMS responds. V to Bruckner Hospital; ICU three days; life support withdrawn 3/12/03." Instead, this could be worded as follows: "V was approached and shot on the street by two males. No information about precipitating circumstance or victim-offender relationship was reported." Appears on PR, CME, and CFR sections of Incident screen.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
IncNarr	Narrative of the incident:	Incident	Text	1000	LR/LR	CME/PR

**Response Options:**

IncNarr

**Data Standards or Guidelines**

NVISS

**Scene investigation by law enforcement: ScenLaw****Scene investigation by the CME: ScenME**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ScenLaw	Did the police conduct an on-scene investigation?
ScenME	Did the CME office conduct an on-scene investigation?

**Uses**

These variables are part of the Child Fatality Review (CFR) Module. Many CFR programs have developed protocols for investigating child deaths. They generally recommend that CMEs and/or police conduct investigations at the scene of a child's death in the case of injury deaths and medical deaths occurring outside a health care setting. Investigations that rely only on examining the body after its removal from the incident scene may fail to reveal information that could aid in identifying homicides. These data elements document whether on-scene investigations occurred and will be useful for determining the extent to which recommended investigation protocols are followed in the case of child suicides, homicides, and unintentional gun deaths.

**Discussion**

If there is no empirical evidence that the specified parties conducted an investigation, these variables should be coded "No". If the CFRT does not ask, code "Not collected". If the CFRT asks, but the information is not available, code "Unknown".

<b>Name</b>	<b>Label</b>	<b>Table</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Field length</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Primacy</b>
ScenLaw	Scene investigation by law enforcement:	Incident	Number	1	O	CFR
ScenME	Scene investigation by the CME:	Incident	Number	1	O	CFR

**Response Options:**

## ScenLaw

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 7 Not collected by reporting site
- 8 Not applicable
- 9 Unknown

## ScenME

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 7 Not collected by reporting site
- 8 Not applicable
- 9 Unknown

**Data Standards or Guidelines**

NVISS

**Witness(es) to fatal incident: Witness****If yes, child witness: ChldWit**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Witness	Were there any witnesses to the incident?
ChldWit	Were there any child witnesses to the fatal incident?

**Uses**

Information about witnesses may provide insight into potential risk factors for violent child deaths and may also be useful for planning services and interventions for those who witnessed the violence.

**Discussion**

Witness(es) include any person(s) other than a suspect who was present and observed the incident that led to the child's death. The supervisor can be considered a witness, but only if that person was not also the perpetrator. A child witness is defined as a person under 18 years of age who was present and observed the fatal incident. These two variables are part of the CFR module.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Label</b>	<b>Table</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Field length</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Primacy</b>
Witness	Witness(es) to fatal incident:	Incident	Number	1	O	CFR
ChldWit	If yes, child witness:	Incident	Number	1	O	CFR

**Response Options:**

Witness and ChldWit

- 0 No
- 1 Yes
- 7 Not collected by reporting site
- 8 Not applicable
- 9 Unknown

**Data Standards or Guidelines**

NVISS

**CFR additional information: CFRT**

Name	Definition
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CFRTxt	Text field for describing additional relevant information provided by the Child fatality review data source
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**Uses**

The CFR data source may provide information that is relevant to the death but is not available from other sources.

**Discussion**

As a text field, use this area to clarify circumstances surrounding the death that may not be clear from the CFR data elements or other NVDRS data sources. For example, unusual circumstances surrounding the death, household composition, supervision, or CFR committee decisions would be helpful in this text box. Also, coding options for several variables require further explanation in the incident narrative; that information should be included here. This box should only reflect unique information gathered from CFR, as it is a document-based system.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field length	Priority	Primacy
CFRTxt	CFR Additional Information: Incident		Text	1000	O	CFR

**Response Options:**

CFRTxt

**Data Standards or Guidelines**

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